

Library Bond Act Grant Applications - Cycle 1 Individual Application Summary

<i>Project Name [Number]</i>	National City Public Library 1028	<i>Current Square Footage</i>	22,444
<i>Applicant</i>	National City, City of	<i>Project Square Footage</i>	48,998
<i>Operating Library Jurisdiction</i>	National City Public Library	<i>Service Area Population:</i>	54,260
<i>Project Type</i>	New Library		
<i>Project Priority</i>	1st	<i>Anticipated Construction Start Date:</i>	10/1/2003
<i>Joint Use Type</i>	Joint Venture		
<i>Multipurpose?</i>	NO	<i>Total Project Amount</i>	\$17,406,637
<i>Leased Site:</i>	NO	<i>State Grant Amount</i>	\$11,112,814

Bond Act Factors [California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 19998 (a)]

	Rated	Other
<i>Needs of urban and rural areas:</i>		[see map]
<i>Population growth:</i>		21%
<i>Financial capacity of applicant to open and maintain operation of the library (new libraries only):</i>		Yes
<i>Age and condition of existing library:</i>	Poor Condition (= Very Good)	
<i>Inadequacy of the existing library in meeting needs of residents and the response of proposed project to meeting the needs:</i>	Outstanding	
<i>Plan of Service integrates appropriate electronic technology:</i>	Outstanding	
<i>Appropriateness of proposed site for the proposed project:</i>	Outstanding	
Overall Rating:		Outstanding

Summary of Review Panel Comments

Population Growth 20.9%

Age and Condition The existing library was built in 1954 and renovated in 1987. Physical limitations include: seismic and ADA non-compliance; aging elevator and no stairway; malfunctioning HVAC resulting in moldy odors, poor ventilation, and temperature fluctuations; inefficient physical layout; inadequate lighting; and inadequate/unsafe computer room with overhead water pipes.

Needs of residents/response of proposed project to needs The needs assessment process included a variety of methods for residents and community leaders to provide input, including: public meetings; stakeholder interviews; surveys; focus groups. Analysis of input and demographic data was thorough, leading to appropriate determination of library service needs. There is a long-standing and continuing cooperative "umbrella" in National City, the National City Collaborative, which has the goals of coordinating community services, preventing duplication of services, and maximizing results by partnership efforts. There is also a long-standing commitment on the part of the public library to work cooperatively with the school district to provide library services that ensure student success. The needs of the student population are considered thoroughly, and the project responds specifically to the needs of the student group targeted by the joint use agreement, K-6 students.

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The plan of service: Library services flow precisely from the needs assessment results. Services are clearly delineated and represent outstanding community-wide cooperation. Services to students are also clearly defined. Training and paid technology intern positions will be offered by the library to young adults as a way of providing needed skills, assistance to clientele and supplementing income.

The building program implements the plan of service, providing spaces for the services indicated in the plan. Functional relationships and adjacencies for areas are clearly described, as are individual spaces. The upper floor is dedicated to the Community Computer Center, Literacy Tutoring Rooms, Literacy Conference Rooms, outreach preschool/parent literacy services, and a distance learning center. The joint venture Family Literacy Center is an extension of an existing model literacy program reaching preschool, K-12, and their parents/caregivers.

The conceptual plans: The plans follow the requirements of the building program, providing programmed, actual, and non-assignable square footages. The actual square footages adhere to the programmed square footages with very few exceptions (e.g., program space and young adult area).

Joint use agreement: Family Literacy Center: The agreement, which is an enhancement of the public library/school district's long-standing joint literacy effort, demonstrates a partnership in which each party is contributing toward the mutual goal of ensuring maximum educational and literacy efforts to reach all needs identified in the community. The Family Literacy Center not only serves preschool through kindergarten students and their parents/caregivers, but provides for after-school literacy groups and one-to-one instruction. The commitment by the school to provide equipment for each school library for videoconferencing reference services and shared circulation/catalog services is outstanding. Staffing and hours of operation are optimal. In an area where transportation to the library is a major obstacle, the school district will provide transportation for students and parents so that they can participate in the joint venture activities. The school district will also provide for the delivery of materials between the schools and the library and will train the after-school coaches.

Plan of Service Integrates Appropriate Technology Technology is used to specifically target the service needs of the National City clientele. In an area where low income increases the "digital divide," the library's Community Computer Center, shared technology with the schools, and distance learning effectively bridge the gap for all residents, including the student and business clienteles. Other specific uses include videoconferencing; shared circulation and catalog system with schools; plans for face-to-face reference services using desktop video cameras at school library sites and public library reference desks; and wireless circulation services.

Appropriateness of Proposed Site The proposed site is "around the corner" from the current library and a block from the original Carnegie library, providing an historical connection for the library. It is a part of the city's redevelopment planning, placing it 4 blocks from a new Higher Education Village, within walking distance of 8 public schools, and as a part of the civic center. The site is accessible by public and private transportation, by bicycle, and by foot. A new stop is planned to be placed at the library entrance. While the site is on the 100-year flood plain, mitigation measures have been taken by the architect to off-set the possibility of flood damage.

Financial Capacity The applicant has committed to the on-going operation of the completed library.